

Bottles found in Slave Cabin

Two complete bottles were recovered during the excavation of the floor space of cabin #1: the medicine bottle found below the interior door noted above, and a small cologne bottle (Figure #15 and #16). The patent medicine bottle was made of clear glass that has almost no bubbles and a seam ending approximately half way up the neck. These attributes suggest that the bottle was produced sometime around the turn of the 20th century.

This bottle measures 5.0 inches tall by 1.6 inches long and 0.8 inches wide. The tiny cologne bottle stands 2.5 inches high and has an outside diameter of 0.95 inches. On one side of the bottle is a rectangular indentation in the glass within which the words "Hoyt's Nickel Cologne" were written in raised letters.

The bottle is similar to the one noted on a historic advertising card found in the Cloutier Collection in the Cammie G. Henry Research Center at Northwestern State University. Based on the mold seam on the bottle and the embossed lettering, a late 19th or early 20th century date for the manufacture of this bottle appears likely. Indeed, the bottle recovered is likely somewhat older than the one depicted on the advertising card. The Hoyt's Cologne bottle was recovered from unit 2145E/2589N immediately below



Figure #15: The Hoyt's Nickel Cologne bottle.

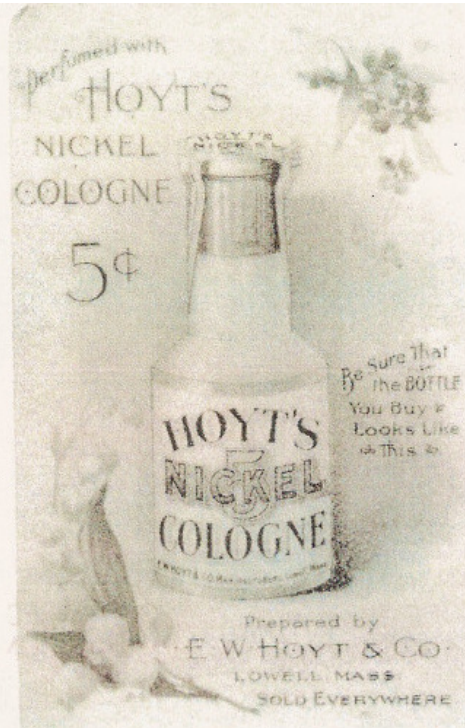


Figure #16: A card advertising the cologne.

approximately one foot from the eastern wall of the northern room of the cabin, and the window/door in the wall. Like the patent medicine bottle found beneath the internal doorway, this bottle was found beneath the center of the widow/door. While a number of conjure tricks involve the use of cologne (Puckett 1926), at least one source cites Henry Middleton Hyatt's five volume compendium interviews with curers and conjurers across the South for the importance of Hoyt's Cologne to African Americans (Yronwode 2003). According to Yronwode, Hoyt's was considered to bring powerful luck in love affairs, money

matters, and gambling.

At least one oral historical account, collected at the site in an interview conducted by NPS staff member Rolonda Teal, in May 2005 states that during the 1950s-60s cabin #1, while primarily a residence, was known for the gambling that took place there (Teal 2005, personal communication). In light of this oral testimony, collected prior to and independently of our excavations into and around cabin #1, the recognized importance of Hoyt's Nickel Cologne for African Americans across the south provides support for the interpretation of this bottle as part of a "trick" to help manipulate the outcome of gambling activities that took place within the cabin.¹

1. Excavations into Quarters Community by Kenneth Brown pp.17-18